

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
*[Aiken, South Carolina]*

HEARING #12-11316

OCTOBER 24, 2012

6:00 P.M.

DOCKET NO. 2012-2-E:

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY – *Application for  
Increases and Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and  
Tariffs, and Request for Mid-Period Reduction in Base Rates  
for Fuel*

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY  
AND PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME 1

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** David A. WRIGHT, *CHAIRMAN*, Randy MITCHELL, *VICE CHAIRMAN*; and COMMISSIONERS John E. ‘Butch’ HOWARD, Elizabeth B. ‘Lib’ FLEMING, G. O’Neal HAMILTON, Swain E. WHITFIELD, and Nikiya ‘Nikki’ HALL

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: G. Randall Dong, Esq.

**STAFF:** James Spearman, Ph.D., Executive Assistant to Commissioners; David Stark, Esq., Legal Staff; William O. Richardson, Advisory Staff; Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM/M-GNSC, Court Reporter; and Afton Ellison and Calvin Woods, Hearing Room Assistants

**APPEARANCES:**

*K. CHAD BURGESS, ESQUIRE, MATTHEW W. GISSENDANNER, ESQUIRE*, representing SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY, APPLICANT

*NANETTE S. EDWARDS, ESQUIRE, and JEFFREY M. NELSON, ESQUIRE*, representing the SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

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***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA***

101 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE  
COLUMBIA, SC 29210

Post Office Box 11649  
COLUMBIA, SC 29211

[WWW.PSC.SC.GOV](http://WWW.PSC.SC.GOV)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

**CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Okay. We will call this public hearing to order. I'd like to welcome each of you here tonight, as we are here to listen to what you have to say tonight.

My name is David Wright, and I am the chairman of the Public Service Commission at the moment. And before we get started, if I could, I would like to introduce my fellow Commissioners and the people at the head table here with me this evening. To my left, your right, all the way down, is O'Neal Hamilton. He's from the Fifth District. Next to him is Butch Howard. Butch is from Charleston and represents the First District. Next to him is Lib Fleming. Lib is out of Spartanburg and represents the Fourth District. To my far right is Nikki Hall. Nikki is from Columbia and represents the Sixth District. Next to her is Swain Whitfield. Swain is our at-large member and he's out of the Blythewood area. Next to him is Randy Mitchell. Randy represents the Third District and is from Saluda, South Carolina.

The person to my immediate right is Randall Dong, and Randall will be the attorney this evening for the Commission, and he will help me run the

1            meeting. So at this time, I'm going to turn it  
2            over to Randall and let him lay out the ground  
3            rules for this evening.

4            **MR. DONG:** Good evening. We're here tonight  
5            for a public hearing in Docket No. 2012-218-E.  
6            This is the application of South Carolina Electric  
7            & Gas for approval of an increase in rates and  
8            charges.

9            The Public Service Commission holds these  
10           public hearings to give you, the ratepayers, and  
11           other interested members of the public an  
12           opportunity to testify in connection with this case  
13           without having to travel to Columbia. We are here  
14           for you, and we thank you for taking the time to be  
15           here. My name, as the Chairman said, is Randall  
16           Dong. I'm a member of the legal staff at the  
17           Commission. We are holding night hearings here  
18           tonight, and we'll have another hearing in the  
19           Charleston area on Monday, November 5th, and  
20           members of the public will also be invited to  
21           testify at the Columbia offices of the Commission  
22           on Tuesday, November 27th. All the night hearings  
23           begin at 6 p.m.

24           And here are those ground rules that the  
25           Chairman spoke of. First, you've already heard

1            said, but if you would, please turn off any audible  
2            alarms or cell phones. Secondly, in order to give  
3            everyone who wants to testify to have an  
4            opportunity to speak, we like to try to limit each  
5            individual public witness's time at the mic. I'm  
6            going to call the witnesses by name one by one, and  
7            when I call you, please come to the podium. When  
8            you come to the podium, please adjust the mic as  
9            necessary, and remember to wait to be sworn in  
10           before beginning your testimony. Begin by stating  
11           your name and spelling it, if it is difficult to  
12           spell, and giving your address and telling us  
13           whether you are an SCE&G customer. Your testimony  
14           tonight is under oath, just as it would be in any  
15           other hearing in any court, and it will be  
16           transcribed word for word by our court reporter,  
17           Ms. Jo Wheat, who is seated over here, and it will  
18           be entered into the record of the case.

19           After you speak, the parties in the case and  
20           the Commissioners will have an opportunity to ask  
21           you questions, so please wait and see whether the  
22           parties or the Commissioners have any questions for  
23           you before you leave.

24           Those of you in the audience, please be  
25           respectful of the witnesses and listen quietly.

1            And when the witness is done, please don't applaud  
2            or otherwise respond. This will help us keep the  
3            hearing moving, and to ensure that everyone who  
4            wants to testify can do so.

5            We normally allow each witness only one  
6            opportunity to testify, so please if you testify  
7            here tonight, don't come to the Columbia hearing in  
8            November expecting to testify again. Your  
9            testimony here tonight is afforded the same weight  
10           given to the testimony at the other hearings, and  
11           there is no advantage to waiting to give your  
12           testimony in Columbia. We've come here for your  
13           convenience, to make it more convenient for you to  
14           testify and to save you from having to come to  
15           Columbia, unless you just want to attend the  
16           hearing and hear what is said there.

17           By law, the Commissioners and Commission staff  
18           cannot answer questions from you or discuss the  
19           case with you. We're not being rude. There's a  
20           law about that, because the Commission is the  
21           decision-maker in the case, and so as a  
22           consequence, we are prohibited from having any ex  
23           parte contact with folks who are involved in the  
24           case. The Office of Regulatory Staff, who is a  
25           party to this case by statute, and the company's

1            representatives can speak to you about the case,  
2            and so feel free to speak to them if you have  
3            questions.

4            The final hearing in this matter will be held  
5            beginning at 9:30 on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, in  
6            the Commission's hearing room in Columbia, and the  
7            Commission will render its decision and issue its  
8            order on or before December 29, 2012.

9            And with that said, the first witness --

10           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** If we could -- we might want  
11           to let the Office of Regulatory introduce  
12           themselves, and the company's attorneys, as well.

13           **MR. DONG:** Oh, okay.

14           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Would you like to -- whoever  
15           wants to go first.

16           **MR. BURGESS:** Good evening, Mr. Chairman and  
17           members of the Commission, and good evening to  
18           SCE&G's customers. On behalf of the company, we  
19           appreciate your attendance this evening. My name  
20           is Chad Burgess and with me is Matthew  
21           Gissendanner. Matt and I both work at SCE&G. In  
22           fact, we're the company's lawyers, and we appear  
23           regularly before this Commission regarding matters  
24           that arise before the Commission. Mr. Chairman  
25           indicated earlier this evening that tonight's

1            hearing is about you, and it's about your comments  
2            and your concerns that you may have related to  
3            SCE&G's filing. And I wanted to convey to you that  
4            the company takes those comments very seriously,  
5            and we want to hear what you have to say about the  
6            company's application. Matt and I are going to be  
7            listening to your comments very closely, and in  
8            addition to us, there are also members of SCE&G's  
9            senior management team, as well as some of the  
10           company's officers, here tonight who are going to  
11           listen to your comments, as well.

12           Attorney Dong did indicate earlier that,  
13           unfortunately, this process doesn't lend itself in  
14           which we're able to answer questions during  
15           tonight's hearing. However, I did want to extend  
16           an invitation to you at the conclusion of tonight's  
17           hearing. If you have any questions on your mind  
18           related to any item in SCE&G's application, you're  
19           more than welcome to ask me or Matt, and we'll do  
20           our best to answer those questions for you. If  
21           we're unable to answer those questions, we'll find  
22           the right person and we'll get the answers to you  
23           in a timely manner.

24           In addition, you may have noticed when you  
25           entered the building this evening that SCE&G had a



1            customer service representative table out front, so  
2            if you have any additional questions that the  
3            customer service agents may be able to answer for  
4            you, please put those questions to them, and I know  
5            they'll do a good job in answering those questions  
6            that you may have.

7            Lastly, I did want to indicate to you that, if  
8            you need assistance paying your bill, if you're  
9            having questions about your bill, let us know.  
10          We're here to provide information to you. If  
11          you've got questions about energy efficiency, let  
12          us know that, as well. If you've got questions  
13          about SCE&G's demand-side management programs,  
14          which are designed to help you reduce your  
15          electricity consumption, let us know. We take your  
16          comments very seriously. They're important to us.  
17          We want to hear what you have to say. We want to  
18          address your concerns.

19          Mr. Chairman, that's all I have, and I  
20          appreciate this opportunity, on behalf of the  
21          company, to appear before you.

22                    **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Thank you. Office of  
23                    Regulatory Staff?

24                    **MS. EDWARDS:** Good evening. My name is  
25                    Nanette Edwards and I work for the South Carolina

1            Office of Regulatory Staff, and I have with me  
2            Attorney Jeff Nelson. And with us today we also  
3            have Brad Kirby -- Brad, please stand.

4            **MR. KIRBY:** [Indicating.]

5            **MS. EDWARDS:** Brad is with our Consumer  
6            Services division.

7            As the South Carolina Office of Regulatory  
8            Staff, we handle complaints involving the regulated  
9            utilities, including South Carolina Electric & Gas.  
10          Brad is here if you have any complaints, questions  
11          regarding bills or service. We also have Anthony  
12          James. Anthony, would you stand up?

13          **MR. JAMES:** [Indicating.]

14          **MS. EDWARDS:** He's the deputy director of our  
15          Electric and Gas Department.

16          The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
17          is the State agency charged with representing the  
18          public interest, and as was mentioned earlier, we  
19          are a party to every case before the Commission.  
20          We will be presenting our witnesses at the hearing  
21          to be held in Columbia, starting November 27th.  
22          That's a Tuesday. Our position in this case is  
23          that we do not agree with the rate increase that  
24          has been proposed by the company in its application  
25          filed with the Commission. If you have questions

1            about our position or any other questions about  
2            what we do, feel free to approach me, Jeff,  
3            Anthony, or Brad. We'll be happy to answer any  
4            questions. Thank you.

5            **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Okay. Thank you. Let's see  
6            if there's anything else to clarify before we get  
7            started. And, Randall, before we get started, I  
8            believe we have Representative Taylor here.

9            How are you? Is there anything you would like  
10           to say?

11           **REP. TAYLOR:** I'm here to listen.

12           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Very good.

13           **REP. TAYLOR:** I have a number of constituents  
14           that are concerned about this rate increase.

15           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Very good. Well, we're glad  
16           to have you. All right. Randall?

17           **MR. DONG:** The first witness I have signed up  
18           is Sofine Key.

19           [Witness sworn/affirmed]

20   **THEREUPON** came,

21                            **S O F I N E   K E Y ,**

22           who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
23           follows:

24                            **WITNESS:** My name is Sofine Key. I live at  
25                            141 Sandcroft Court, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

1            But I get my mail at my P.O. box, which is 2665,  
2            Aiken, South Carolina 29802.

3            **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** You may go ahead.

4            **WITNESS:** I'm kind of here to talk about my  
5            light bill. If it's all possible I would like for  
6            SCE&G to let mine stay the way it is, because I'm a  
7            widow and I have cancer, and I can't afford to pay  
8            any more than what I pay now. So those are my  
9            concerns. And like I said, I had came down with  
10           cancer, so if mine can stay the way it is, I would  
11           appreciate, you know, the company letting it stay  
12           that way. But if not, you know, maybe lower. I'm  
13           a widow and I can't afford for it to go any higher.

14           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Yes, ma'am. Hold on just a  
15           minute, ma'am. Any questions?

16           **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Ms. Key.

17           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Office of Regulatory Staff?

18           **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, but I would  
19           encourage you to check in with Brad Kirby, with our  
20           Consumer Services, before you leave, to see what  
21           opportunities there may be.

22           **WITNESS:** Sure. That's good. Thank you.

23           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Ms. Key, hold on.  
24           Commissioners? Commissioner Whitfield.

25           **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you, Mr.

1                    Chairman.

2                    **EXAMINATION**

3 **BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

4 **Q**      Ms. Key, would you mind sharing with us what your bill  
5                    averages, or do you have any information you'd like to  
6                    share with us regarding your situation?

7 **A**      Yes, sir. My bill is \$124 monthly.

8                    **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you, ma'am.

9                    That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

10                  **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Commissioner Mitchell.

11                  **VICE CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Thank you, Mr.

12                  Chairman.

13                  **EXAMINATION**

14 **BY VICE CHAIRMAN MITCHELL:**

15 **Q**      Ms. Key, you stated your bill. Could you tell us  
16                    anything about -- is your quality of service good? Do  
17                    you --

18 **A**      Yes.

19 **Q**      -- have any times when the lights might go out, or has  
20                    it been good over the years? Could you tell us a little  
21                    bit about that?

22 **A**      Oh, yes, I have good service. And whenever anything go  
23                    wrong, I have to let the company know, and they send  
24                    somebody out immediately. I don't have any trouble with  
25                    that.

1    **Q**    So you haven't had any extensive time where the power's  
2        been out for a long time?

3    **A**    No, not this year. Last year, it did, you know, when we  
4        had the storm and everything. But not this year, so  
5        far. Not as I knows of.

6    **Q**    But your statement would be the overall quality of  
7        service is very good?

8    **A**    Very good. Yes.

9                    **VICE CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Thank you.

10                  **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Commissioners, anyone?

11                                  [No response]

12                  Ms. Key, personally from me, myself, and  
13        there's others in this room who also have been down  
14        the road that you're going through facing cancer  
15        and dealing with that, so I know how important it  
16        is and how serious it is, too, so -- and Godspeed  
17        to you, and we wish you the best.

18                  **WITNESS:** Thank you so very much.

19                  **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Okay. You're done?

20                  **WITNESS:** Yes.

21                  **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** You can retake your seat.

22                  **WITNESS:** Thank you all.

23                                  [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24                  **MR. DONG:** Stanley Ostrawski?

25                                  [Witness sworn/affirmed]

1    THEREUPON came,

2                    S T A N L E Y   O S T R A W S K I ,

3    who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
4    follows:

5                    **WITNESS:**    My name is Stanley Ostrawski.    I  
6                    live at 771 Starbuck Drive, Aiken, South Carolina  
7                    29803.

8                    I've been regulating my own electricity bill  
9                    by merely turning off my water heater when I go  
10                   away, or turning it off that night.    Now, the  
11                   problem is that my water heater runs on regular old  
12                   electricity, okay?    I just use regular electricity.  
13                   I'm not using designer electricity.    Now, the price  
14                   increase, or the rate increase they're asking for  
15                   would mean I'd be buying designer electricity,  
16                   which doesn't make my toaster toast any better,  
17                   doesn't heat my water any better.    So my concern is  
18                   the fact that they're raising the price up, and I  
19                   have no option.    Now, if I want gasoline in my car,  
20                   I have two gas stations at Pine Willow Road; I can  
21                   go to the BP station or the Circle K.    It depends  
22                   on which price is cheaper, because the gas --  
23                   regular gas is regular gas; 87 octane is 87 octane.

24                   Now, why can't I, in South Carolina -- as a  
25                   citizen of the Sovereign State of South Carolina --

1            buy my electricity from Duke? I understand Duke is  
2            40 percent less. Why don't we have those rights?  
3            Other states do. You know, I understand that the  
4            big business, big electricity, big oil has the  
5            power, but we as citizens should have some say in  
6            where we buy our -- where we purchase things. We  
7            buy our ground meat, our fruits -- we have a  
8            choice; we can go to different grocery stores and  
9            take advantage of the sales. Here, we're given --  
10          you say, "Take it or leave it."

11            So, I mean, other things they can do as  
12          electric companies -- I lived in New Jersey, which  
13          is probably one of the most corrupt states in the  
14          country, and in New Jersey -- well, I understand  
15          this company offers it, too, and we can -- on our  
16          air conditioner, we could have a regulator put on  
17          it and they gave us \$15 a month. And what it did  
18          was, during times of high usage, it would cycle it  
19          but it wouldn't keep it down a long time. And so  
20          15 bucks a month they gave us back. And then,  
21          water heaters, you could actually have a timer that  
22          when the electric rates were cheaper at night --  
23          because they're basically running -- they're  
24          producing more electricity at night than we need.  
25          So why can't we just do something like that, say,



1            "Okay, if you want to sign up for this, your water  
2            heater -- you run it at night, it's going to run at  
3            this rate. You run it during the day, during high-  
4            peak usage, it's going to cost you this much."

5            Because right now I'm starting to turn mine off at  
6            night. I cut the power at the breaker. If my wife  
7            says, "I'm going to take a bath," I go and turn it  
8            on and say, "You've got a half-hour to take your  
9            bath." You know, and I turn it on the morning  
10          before I take my shower. That's one of the biggest  
11          water -- or, biggest electricity hogs in your  
12          house, is your water heater.

13                  So that's all I have to say. But I think we  
14                  need to have a choice, okay? If I can go buy Citgo  
15                  from Hugo Chavez or I can buy Shell or whatever, I  
16                  should have a choice in purchasing electricity,  
17                  too.

18                  **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** [Indicating.]

19                  **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions, Mr.  
20                  Chairman.

21                  **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Okay. ORS?

22                                  **CROSS EXAMINATION**

23                  **BY MS. EDWARDS:**

24                  **Q**      What would you like the Commission to do with the  
25                  company's proposed rate application?

1    **A**    Oh, deny it. That's without saying. Okay? As I say,  
2           their electricity doesn't toast my toast any better than  
3           when I visit my daughter up in Seneca, so -- or make my  
4           coffee any better.

5                    **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Commissioners, any  
6                    questions?

7                    **VICE CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Mr. Chairman.

8                    **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Commissioner Mitchell.

9                    **EXAMINATION**

10           **BY VICE CHAIRMAN MITCHELL:**

11           **Q**    Yes. I would recommend -- and I'm sure you know this,  
12           that the company offers certain programs for certain  
13           time usage. I just -- have you discussed that with some  
14           of the company officials? They are present tonight, and  
15           you mentioned cutting your hot water heater on and off.  
16           I think they have certain programs that they can offer  
17           to you, as far as trying to save electricity and being  
18           more efficient. I just didn't know if you were aware of  
19           that, that they do try to offer those programs.

20           **A**    Well, when you read the things they send out in the  
21           mail, it takes more than a college degree, which I have,  
22           to be able to understand what they've sent out as far as  
23           your different rate changes and whether you use this  
24           many kilowatts or that many kilowatts, or whether you  
25           are eligible for Rate 8, or whatever. They need to make

1            it clear, and not just have it available on a computer,  
2            on the Internet -- because a lot of people are either  
3            computer illiterate or can't afford a computer. So  
4            making it available only on Internet is not an answer.  
5            It needs to be made in clear English, fourth-grade level  
6            English. You know, not in something where I have to  
7            pull out my book and try to figure out what are they  
8            really saying? How many kilowatts am I using and can I  
9            cut back? But I've knocked my electricity bill down just  
10           by, as I say, just turning off my water heater.

11 **Q**      All right. Well, I just wanted you to know that they --

12 **A**      No, I --

13 **Q**      I'm sure --

14 **A**      Yes.

15 **Q**      -- they're available tonight, if you'd like to talk with  
16           them about that maybe in more specific terms.

17 **A**      Maybe they could get -- it's like the tax code. Maybe  
18           they could, you know, make it a little simpler for me.

19                    **VICE CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Thank you. Thank you,  
20                    sir.

21                    **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Anything else,  
22                    Commissioners?

23                    [No response]

24                    Thank you, very much.

25                    **WITNESS:** Thank you.

1                                [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

2                    **MR. DONG:** Is there anyone else here present  
3 who wishes to testify?

4                                [No response]

5                    **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Hearing none, all right.  
6 Well, since that is the last of the public  
7 witnesses, we would encourage you to check our  
8 website to keep updated on what is being filed, or  
9 some of the testimony that might be filed beyond  
10 tonight, and to encourage you, if you feel like you  
11 want to change your mind and you would like to  
12 speak later, you can come to one of our other  
13 public meetings or the Commission hearing room the  
14 day of the hearing and we'll also have an  
15 opportunity for the public to address, as well. So  
16 if you have any questions of us, you can contact  
17 our staff at the PSC, or contact the Office of  
18 Regulatory Staff with any consumer complaints or  
19 concerns. And with that, we will adjourn this  
20 public hearing.

21                    **MR. DONG:** Just for your information, in case  
22 you are interested, there are two other  
23 opportunities for nighttime hearings. There is one  
24 scheduled for the Charleston area on Monday,  
25 November 5th, and one scheduled on the evening of

1            the hearing-in-chief at the Columbia office of the  
2            Commission on Tuesday, November 27th. Both those  
3            hearings begin at 6 p.m. Details about the  
4            locations are all on the website, or we can give  
5            them to you, the staff, or you can call us and we  
6            can give you directions. Thank you.

7            **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Mr. Taylor?

8            **REP. TAYLOR:** Mr. Chairman, referring to the  
9            testimony here today, may I pose a couple of  
10           questions? Or is that possible?

11           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** You may come up to the  
12           podium and be sworn, if you prefer.

13           **REP. TAYLOR:** Usually I'm sworn at, but --

14           [Laughter]

15           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Welcome to our world.

16           **REP. TAYLOR:** Oh, I'm very much in your world.  
17           Thank you, very much.

18           [Witness sworn/affirmed]

19           THEREUPON came,

20           **R E P .   B I L L   T A Y L O R ,**

21           who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
22           follows:

23           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Mr. Taylor -- Representative  
24           Taylor, before you get started, as you may have  
25           heard, by law we are -- the Commissioners are

1            unable to answer questions, but you can certainly  
2            pose them, and they can be answered either during  
3            the hearing, or the company or ORS could probably  
4            answer them once the hearing concludes, as well.

5            **WITNESS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the  
6            record, Representative Bill Taylor, House District  
7            86, Aiken County, 308 Summer Wind Court, Aiken,  
8            South Carolina.

9            I walked in a moment late, and I'm sorry for  
10           that. We actually have traffic in Aiken, from time  
11           to time. And maybe, since you can't answer this --  
12           the questions I get from my constituents, and one  
13           in particular, that if someone could just give me  
14           perspective on, that SCE&G has had approximately 17  
15           rate increases and a total of 26 percent increase  
16           over what period of time? Could that possibly be  
17           answered for all of us? And correct any  
18           misinformation I might have.

19           **MR. BURGESS:** Oh, no. I certainly -- Mr.  
20           Chairman, this is a hearing process, and while I  
21           certainly understand Representative Taylor's  
22           question --

23           **VOICE:** Sir, we can't hear you.

24           **MR. BURGESS:** Mr. Chairman, I understand  
25           Representative Taylor's question. This is a

1            hearing process and he is a witness under oath, and  
2            unfortunately the way the process works is  
3            witnesses are not allowed to ask attorneys  
4            questions during a hearing. And I regret that; I  
5            really do.

6            **WITNESS:** I understand.

7            **MR. BURGESS:** However, we do have folks here  
8            present, and we are certainly more than happy to  
9            talk with you at the conclusion of this hearing.  
10           And anybody else --

11           **WITNESS:** Great.

12           **MR. BURGESS:** -- who would like to have the  
13           answer to that question, we'd be happy to talk to.

14           **WITNESS:** Thank you. And I'm sorry to come up  
15           late, and I'll take you up on that offer, and maybe  
16           we'll just resume when we close the hearing, and  
17           come right down here, and anybody who wants to join  
18           me, we can get answers to our questions. I'm not  
19           on the attack; I'm asking questions.

20           These are tough times, folks, and there's not  
21           a lot of money to go around. And we have some  
22           legitimate questions here. I'm just disappointed  
23           more of these folks didn't come down here. They're  
24           obviously interested, and so this is government at  
25           work. Y'all come down and testify when it comes

1            time. So, we, at the House of Representatives,  
2            love to have people come to our hearings, and we  
3            will extend them as long as possible and listen to  
4            -- you guys have been there -- we'll listen, and  
5            listen, and listen, because we work for the public.  
6            So, I really don't have any questions or great  
7            comments. I'm seeking, more, information.

8            **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Sure.

9            **WITNESS:** And I hope you fellows will --  
10           ladies and gentlemen -- will make wise decisions  
11           when it comes to this. I understand the needs, but  
12           I also understand the ability to pay. It's very  
13           difficult today. Thank you very much.

14           **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:** Thank you.

15           [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

16           Okay. I guess, with that, we'll adjourn this  
17           hearing. Thank you for coming.

18           [WHEREUPON, at 6:25 p.m., the hearing in  
19           the above-entitled matter was adjourned,  
20           to reconvene at 6:00 p.m., on November 5,  
21           2012]



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had in a Commission Meeting held by THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA in Columbia, South Carolina, on October 24, 2012, according to the record of same.

Given under my hand this 11th day of December, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat".

Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM/M-GNSC  
Court Reporter